The colour of the underparts beneath the breast is slightly paler than in either of these races, the dusky spot in front and underneath the eye is much less distinct, and the tail appears to be slightly longer (1·6). I have proposed to call this species *Zosterops neglecta* (*cf.* Bull. B. O. C. no. v. p. xxvi).

The six species of Javan *Zosteropes* will therefore stand as follows:—

| | | Other localities. |
|---|---|---|
| (1) *Zosterops fallax.* | W. Java. | Sumatra. |
| (2) *Z. javanica.* | W. Java. | |
| (3) *Z. auriventer.* | W. Java. | Malay Penins., Sumatra, Borneo, and Timor. |
| (4) *Z. gallio.* | E. Java. | |
| (5) *Z. flava.* | W. Java. | Sumatra, Borneo. |
| (6) *Z. neglecta.* | E. Java. | |

## XX.—*On the Species of* Merula *found in the Island of Java.*

### By Henry Seebohm, F.Z.S.

Horsfield's Ouzel was discovered in some part of West Java by Dr. Horsfield between the years 1811 and 1817, and was described by him in a paper entitled "Systematic Arrangement and Description of Birds from the Island of Java," which was read at a meeting of the Linnean Society of London on the 18th of April, 1820, under the name of *Turdus javanicus* (Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc. xiii. p. 148). The types were presented to the Museum of the East India Company in 1819 (Horsf. & Moore, Cat. Birds Mus. E. I. C. i. p. 196), and are now in the British Museum*.

This species was rediscovered in West Java on the crater of Mount Gedee, about 8000 feet above the level of the sea, by Salomon Müller some time between the years 1828 and 1836, and received the name of *Turdus* (*Merula*) *fumidus* (Müller, Verh. Nat. Gesch., Land- en Volkenk. p. 201), the types of which are in the Leyden Museum.

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* There are three types of Horsfield's *M. javanica* in the British Museum, which are apparently male, female, and young. The adults differ from all other Javan examples known in having the chestnut restricted to the belly, and not extending to the flanks. The white on the under tail-coverts is also reduced to a shaft-line in the male. It is possible that they may have been procured on some other mountain, and that *M. fumida* may be specifically distinct from *M. javanica.*

In 1844 a third name was bestowed upon Horsfield's Ouzel, viz. *Turdus hypopyrrhus* (Hartlaub, Syst. Verz. der Mus. Bremen, p. 43), the previous descriptions of the bird having been either unknown to Dr. Hartlaub, or having appeared to him so vague as to be unrecognizable. The type of this description is in the Bremen Museum, and from the excellent figure of it (Sclater, Ibis, 1875, p. 346, pl. viii.) it appears to be a not very old male from West Java.

In 1861 Mr. Wallace obtained examples of this Ouzel (one of which is in the British Museum) in almost the same locality. In his 'Malay Archipelago' he describes his visit to the extinct volcano of Pangerango, and mentions that on its summit, about 10,000 feet above the level of the sea, he found this bird feeding on the ground among the strawberries that have been planted there.

There does not seem to be any foundation for the statement made in 1847 (Blyth, J. A. S. B. xvi. p. 143) that the name of *Turdus concolor* was given to this species by Temminck (Büttikofer, Notes Leyd. Mus. xv. p. 108). The statement made in 1854 (Bp. C. R. xxxviii. p. 6) that Dr. Schiff had named the example in the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfort *Turdus nigricrissus* is also, as I am informed by Mr. Hartert, equally unsupported by evidence.

This species has also been stated to occur in Sumatra and Borneo under the name of *Turdus fumidus* (Bp. Consp. i. p. 274), but I can find no evidence in favour of the correctness of either of these localities, except that there is a skin in the British Museum labelled "Borneo," purchased from Verreaux, which, however, can scarcely be regarded as proof that it was shot there.

That there should exist a second, and possibly a third, species of *Merula* in the island of Java seems at first sight somewhat improbable, but when it is remembered that *Merula javanica* has been found only in West Java, and then at elevations of from 8000 to 10,000 feet, the occurrence of a closely allied species in East Java, two hundred and fifty miles away, at an elevation of 7000 feet above sea-level, must be considered by no means improbable. The genus *Merula* is an arctic and subarctic one, and the species found in the tropics seek the greatest elevations they can find, so that the *Merulæ* of West Java are practically isolated from those of East Java by the tropical plains which intervene. I have proposed to call the East Javan species *Merula whiteheadi**: in the first place because it was discovered by Mr. Whitehead, who met with it near Tosari at an elevation of 7000 feet, in August and September 1886. This was during the memorable expedition to the islands of the Malay Archipelago which culminated in the exploration of Mount Kina-Balu in North Borneo, where Mr. Whitehead discovered more than forty new species of birds. In the second place, the name *whiteheadi* is singularly appropriate, as it serves to fix on the memory the peculiar character of the species, which is distinguished from its West-Javan ally by the much greater whiteness of its head. In the adult male the head is pale grey, in the female it is darker grey, and in the young in first plumage brownish black. In other respects *M. whiteheadi* agrees closely with *Merula javanica*. The under tail-coverts of the female and young have broad white shaft-streaks, which are reduced to pale shafts in the adult male. The feathers round the vent seem to be always white.

If the East-Javan Ouzel be distinct from the West-Javan Ouzel, the next question which arises is its distinctness or otherwise from the Timor Ouzel.

*Merula schlegeli* was discovered near Penpaan in a mountain valley in the interior of the island of Timor by Salomon Müller some time between the years 1828 and 1836, but was regarded by its discoverer as merely a variety of Horsfield's Ouzel (Müller, *op. cit.* p. 201). The single example from Timor remained in the Leyden Museum for twenty years before it was observed to be different from its Javan ally, when it was named *Turdus schlegeli* (Sclater, Ibis, 1861,

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* *Cf.* Bull. B. O. C. no. v. p. xxv.

p. 280). Fourteen years afterwards, a further attempt to vindicate the character of the supposed new species was made (Sclater, Ibis, 1875, p. 344), but, in consequence of an error in the diagnosis, the distinctness of the two species has not been generally recognized. Both species are described as "supra fuscus unicolor," the characters relied upon being the absence of the white shaft-streaks on the under tail-coverts and the white feathers round the vent in the Timor species. Inasmuch as the former character varies so much with age and sex, and the latter is so easily lost in the preparation of the skin, ornithologists naturally did not recognize the distinctness of the Timor species from the Javan one, which was supposed to range west to Sumatra and north to Borneo. We now learn, however (Büttikofer, Notes Leyd. Mus. xv. p. 109), that the Timor bird resembles the East-Javan species in the pale colour of the head, neck, and throat, but differs from it in having no white on the vent or under tail-coverts. It thus appears that the attempt to maintain the distinctness of the Timor species was based upon a true geographical instinct, though one of the main arguments for the defence was overlooked.

Two other very closely allied *Merulæ* are found in the Malay Archipelago. *Merula seebohmi* (Sharpe, Ibis, 1888, p. 386) was discovered in 1888 on Kina-Balu in North Borneo, and *Merula celebensis* was obtained by Mr. Teysmaan in 1877 at Macassar in Celebes, though it has only recently been described (Büttikofer, Notes Leyd. Mus. xv. p. 109). The new species appears to be closely allied to *Merula seebohmi* and *Merula celænops,* having the chestnut of the underparts very rich in colour and covering the whole breast. It further resembles the latter species in having the upper parts below the neck suffused with olive, but probably differs from it in having the white on the belly confined to the vent.